Amendments to the Specification:

Amendments to the specification and have been made to correct informalities.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] The infeed section 22 sequentially transports untrimmed books, having thicknesses which may vary within a range of thicknesses, to the front trimmer assembly 24. The infeed section 22 includes a shuttle or infeed element 48 (Fig. 2) which is moved with a reciprocating action to sequentially push untrimmed books or other sheet material articles into the front trimmer assembly 24 (Fig. 1). The motion of the shuttle 48 may include both horizontal and vertical components. For example, the shuttle 48 may dip downward out of the path of an incoming book on a return stroke portion of the shuttle's reciprocating action so as to clear the book. Then, the shuttle 48 may move back upward into ~~it's~~ its pushing position. The shuttle 48 pushes against the trailing or front edge portion 52 of a book 54 in the manner illustrated schematically in Fig. 14. The shuttle 48 moves a leading or back edge portion 56 of the book 54 into engagement with backstops 62 (Figs. 4, 5 and 15).

Please replace paragraph [0103] with the following amended paragraph:

[0103] During operation of the apparatus 20, the transfer belts 254 and 256 are continuously driven at the same speed. The lower run of the upper transfer belt 254 and the upper run of the lower transfer belt 256 continuously move in a forward direction, that is toward the left as viewed in Fig. 9. Therefore, once a partially trimmed book 54 has been engaged by the transfer belts 254 and 256 at the front trimmer assembly 24, the book is continuously moved in a forward direction, that is toward the left as viewed in Fig. 9, by the transfer belts 254 and 256.

Please replace paragraph [0137] with the following amended paragraph:

[0137] At the same time that the backstops 62 are rotating in a forward direction, that is toward the left as viewed in Fig. 14, into the path of travel of the books, the front table 28 is moving through ~~are turn~~ a return stroke, toward the right as viewed in Fig. 14. Thus, the backstops 62 are moving in the opposite direction from the table 28 when the backstops move into the path of travel of books. This also facilitates movement of the backstops 62 into a relatively small space between the books.

Please replace paragraph [0138] with the following amended paragraph:

[0138] At this time, 335° in the operating cycle, the side table 44 (Fig. 14) is moving through a return stroke. A fully trimmed book 54 is being moved off of the side table 44. The speed of the upper and lower transfer belts 254 and 256 (Fig. 9) is increasing (Fig. 13). The relationship between the front table 28 and side table 24 with an untrimmed book clamped to the front table 28 is illustrated in Fig. 15. At this time, a fully trimmed book is moving forwardly off of the side table 44. This occurs at approximately 20° in the operating cycle of the trimmer apparatus (Fig. 12).

Please replace paragraph [0145] with the following amended paragraph:

[0145] At this time, 73° in the operating cycle, the transfer belts ~~2564~~ 254 and 256 are moving at the same speed as the front table 28 (Figs. 12 and 13). Thus, the lower run of the upper transfer belt 254 ~~9Fig. 9)~~ (Fig. 9) is moving forwardly at the same speed as the front table 28. Therefore, the only relative movement between the transfer belts 254 and 256 and the book 54 is the result of a closing of the outer end portion of the transfer belts downwardly against the upper side surface 104 of the book.

Please replace paragraph [0146] with the following amended paragraph:

[0146] Fig. 17 illustrates the relationship between the front table 28 and empty side table 44 while the front table is moving [[f]]torward the [[3]]end of a ~~return~~ forward stroke. At this time, the front clamp 72 is moving toward a fully disengaged position. This occurs at approximately 100~~%~~° (Fig. 12) in the operating cycle of the trimmer apparatus 20.

Please replace paragraph [0150] with the following amended paragraph:

[0150] The side table clamps 102 ~~9Fig. 11)~~ (Fig. 11) have gripped the book 54 to hold the book against movement relative to the side table 44. In addition, the side knives 40 and 42 are moving downwardly and forwardly, in the manner indicated by the arrow 362 in Fig. 18, to trim the book 54 with a shear type cutting action. The transfer belts 254 and 256 are moving at the same speed as the side table 44. Therefore, there is no relative movement between the transfer belts 254 and 256 and the book moving with the side table 54. When the side trim cuts have been completed, both the side clamps 102 and the side knives 40 and 42 are retracted and the

fully trimmed book is moved off of the side table 44 to the receiving conveyor 36 in the manner previously explained.